

1 Principles

Collective worship will play an integral part at New Charter Academy as it will contribute to the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural growth. Collective worship will provide students with a time in the day where they can develop a reflective approach to life whatever their beliefs are.

New Charter Academy aims to comply with the 1988 Education Act and will ensure that a daily act of collective worship will be provided for all students. The Education Act states that, 'the majority of collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Collective worship should 'reflect the broad traditions of Christian belief without being distinctive of any particular denomination'.

However, New Charter Academy is a multi-faith academy and therefore will place an emphasis on valuing and celebrating cultural and religious diversity from all of the world religions alongside Christianity. In addition we recognise that we have students attending the academy that are from a non religious background. Our aim is not to preach or convert students, but to provide them with tolerance and understanding about their own beliefs, as well as the beliefs and practices of others around them. The beliefs of staff and students will be respected at all times.

2 Aims

Through collective worship we aim to build on our caring ethos and to reinforce a sense of community at New Charter Academy by providing students with the opportunity to share common values, beliefs and practices in a reflective space. Those students who have a faith will be able to use the reflection time to consider their religious beliefs and to pray or worship internally as they feel appropriate. Students who do not have a religious belief will have the opportunity to reflect and make a personal response to any given issues. They will also be able to enter into a dialogue with those who are religious, enabling both believers and non-believers to appreciate each others stances.

Through collective worship we aim to provide a caring and supporting environment for students to:

- Reflect on and question and issues such as belonging to New Charter Academy community, the local community and the global community.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirming each person's life stance, whether it they are religious or not.
- Grow in understanding of the feelings of other people in every day situations and beliefs.
- Develop a reflective approach to life
- Have time to consider their individual values and beliefs as well as others around them.
- Deepen their sense of wonder about the world around them
- Respond freely to religious/spiritual stimulus
- Have the opportunity to celebrate achievements

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3 Practice

At New Charter Academy each year group will attend a 15 minute assembly once per week. The school year has been divided into weekly themes, which will take into account religious festivals, national or international events and aspects taken from the school calendar.

All members of staff and students will be encouraged to take an active part in both planning and delivering an 'assembly' within their year group. They will have the support of the assembly co-ordinator. An emphasis will be placed on pupil participation and on the effective use of technology. The Executive Director or a senior member of staff will be present at each assembly. Assemblies will be discussed at Academy Council meetings and students are invited to submit ideas for assemblies. There will also be scope for form tutors to lead their groups through discussions, readings and reflections during tutorial time in relation to the topic of the week.

4 Content

Assemblies at New Charter Academy aim to develop a pupil's social, moral, cultural and spiritual growth. In order to contribute to this the content of assemblies throughout the year will include the following:

- Celebrating religious and cultural festivals that reflect the diversity of faiths contained within the community e.g. Divali, eid, Christmas.
- Examples of lives of people of faith and noteworthy individuals. This could be in relation to sport, media or religion.
- Stories supporting themes from a range of sources, including sacred texts, faith communities and secular books. Parables will be used in some assemblies.
- Responses to key local, national and international events
- Opportunities to think about their own beliefs whether religious or non-religious
- Putting things into practice – e.g. supporting charities
- Providing a moment for silent reflection / prayer
- Celebration of successes of members of the academy community
- Performances or presentations from members of the academy community
- Input from visiting speakers / local organisations.

5 Roles and Responsibilities

The Executive Director is responsible (under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998) for arranging the daily collective worship after consulting with the governing body.

The Spiritual dimensions Co-ordinator is responsible for planning the calendar of themes and activities.

All Teaching Staff are required to attend assemblies unless they have formally withdrawn from them. Teaching staff will only be withdrawn from assemblies by putting their request in writing and meeting with the Executive Director.

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